

## International programs help at home and abroad

Global trade may be a new concept for some Canadian business people, but it's old hat at George Brown.

For more than 15 years the college has been involved in the international education business — sending teachers and administrators into countries as far flung as Fiji and Nepal.

Over this period dozens of college staff have said "so long" to our quiet campuses to share their specialized knowledge with the developing world.

They have had to bridge language and cultural gaps, deal with antiquated equipment, and, in some cases, dodge civil wars. One teacher had to cool his heels in Cyprus while war raged in Afghanistan. Another quickly left China at the time of the forced end of the democracy movement there.

Currently, George Brown staff are working in New Zealand, South

America and Africa, while others are departing soon for projects in India and Jamaica.

On the home front, George Brown has hosted hundreds of educators who have upgraded their teaching or technical skills in special programs.

While both types of programs are self-supporting with funding from foreign governments and international development agencies, they contribute much more than cash to the college, according to staff of George Brown's International Centre.

"Sending our staff overseas gives them a chance to refine and develop their professional skills in a new and stimulating environment," says international programs manager Bill George, who has taught English in China. "It is often personally renewing and enriching."

Senior international programs manager Pat Stanojevic says Canadian colleges have a moral imperative to share knowledge with the developing world — but that the projects that could eventually benefit the lives of millions of people abroad also have a practical purpose here at home.

International education provides George Brown staff and students with a global perspective that may be critical to the continued economic success of Canada, she says.

The college's 400 international students — who come from 25 different countries including Japan and Nigeria — also make a valuable contribution, Stanojevic says.

"Each visa student brings with them an opportunity for teachers and students to learn about life in the world beyond Canada's borders," she says.

George Brown's international efforts over the years have resulted in formal twinning with two universities in China, and a special relationship with several educational institutions in Jamaica.

George Brown has taken a lead role in several projects at the College of Arts, Science and Technology (CAST) in Kingston, Jamaica, and is currently involved in a \$3-million, four-year project to develop small business skills, increase computer efficiency and develop a diploma program in hospitality and tourism.

This last component, which involves the work of several George Brown School of Hospitality teachers with Hospitality Chairperson Brian Cooper as program consultant, includes the creation of a student training restaurant, similar to Plumer's.

The CAST restaurant, called Lillian's, will be created in a historic building on the college's campus that was restored after a hurricane, with donations from George Brown staff. A fund-raising lunch to equip Lillian's will be held on Feb. 7 at Plumer's to mark International Development Week at the college.



George Brown's Pat Stanojevic chats with teachers from Indonesian Ministry of Communications Academies in Jakarta. Stanojevic, senior manager of the college's International Centre, taught the teachers, who train civil aviation staff, about curriculum development on a recent project in the Asian country. George Brown staff from many different departments have been involved in international projects both at home and overseas.

# Events

**Jan. 28** - Staff development seminar: *Visual Communications in the Classroom*, Part 1, St. James Campus, room 224, from 2 - 4 p.m. Part 2 is offered on Feb. 18. For information, call 944-4661.

**Jan. 29** - Training and Services for the Unemployed department open house, 2 to 4 p.m., 260 King St. E (East Wing), third floor. Meet staff and find out about the programs this Access Division department offers.

**Feb. 3 - 7** - *International Development Week* at George Brown. Come celebrate at Plumer's Dining Room with special menus featuring the cuisines of France (Feb. 3), Germany (Feb. 4), Switzerland (Feb. 5), Italy (Feb. 6), and the West Indies (Feb. 7). See Feb. 7 item for more information about a special fund-raising luncheon.

**Feb. 4** - Board of Governors meeting, 5 p.m. Casa Loma Campus, staff lounge, third floor, 160 Kendal Ave. To attend, call Jeanette Cairns at 944-4472.

**Feb. 6** - Staff development seminar: *College Orientation for New Employees*, 9 a.m. - noon, Casa Loma Campus, 160 Kendal Ave., room C-318. For information, call 944-4661.

**Feb. 7** - Fund-raising luncheon to assist the College of Arts, Science and Technology (CAST) in Jamaica in buying equipment for the development of a hospitality/tourism management program. Tickets \$25, including speech by International Consultant George Kibedi. Grand prize is return airfare for two to Jamaica. Plumer's Dining Room, 11:45 a.m. For more information, call Pat Stanojevic in the International Centre at 867-2116.

**Feb. 10** - Start of *Winter Orientation Week* for students at St. James Campus. A series of social and sporting events, including skiing, a pub crawl and a dance, has been organized by the Student Administrative Council (SAC) from today to Feb. 14. Today, psychic Dan Valkos will be speaking about ghosts and haunted houses in the atrium, noon.

**Feb. 12** - Ceramics Department *Valentine's Day Sale*, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., St. James Campus atrium. Individually



**PLAYING SANTA** - Joe Totero of the Casa Loma stores department packs up presents donated by staff of the Architectural and Mechanical Systems Departments in the School of Technology for distribution to needy children in December. About 20 staff members in the departments decided to forgo gift exchanges and donate presents to the CHUM/CITY-TV Christmas Wish campaign instead.

crafted items by students will be on sale with proceeds going to finance a student field trip in March 1992.

- Varsity basketball game, George Brown vs. Humber College, St. James gym. Women's game, 6 p.m., men's game, 8 p.m. For information call Athletics.

**Feb. 13** - College Council meeting, 8:45 a.m. - 11 a.m., 300 Adelaide St. E., room 310.

- The Incredible Boris, hypnotist, will speak and give a demonstration of hypnosis in the St. James atrium, noon - 2 p.m., as part of SAC events organized for Winter Orientation Week.

**Feb. 14** - *Campus Canada Caravan*. Representatives from the magazine *Campus Canada* will be in the atrium of 200 King St. E all day to distribute free grab bags for students.

- Sue Johansen, media personality and sex therapist, will be speaking in the St. James atrium, noon, as part of SAC events organized for Winter Orientation Week.

**Feb. 17** - Opening of nominations for election of student representative to the college's Board of Governors. Nominations close March 6. The election is to be held on April 9. Nomination forms will be available at campus managers' offices. For more information about the election, call Jeanette Cairns at 944-4472.

- Start of Alcohol Awareness Week, sponsored by the Student Success Network, the Student Administrative Council, the President's Office, Student Services Department and the Hospitality Club.

**Feb. 19** - *Wellness Day*, Casa Loma Campus gym, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. About 25 health, fitness and wellness groups will participate in this third annual event for college students and staff. Learn how to achieve optimum health and hear about topics including diet, stress, sexuality, disease prevention, and exercise.

**Feb. 19** - Advisory Committee for Equity (ACE) general meeting, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m., new boardroom off the staff lounge, fourth floor, 160 Kendal Ave., Casa Loma Campus. Staff and students welcome. For more information, call June Kingshott at 944-4621.

**Feb. 20** - Staff-student *Mocktail Party*, 300 Adelaide St. E., atrium, 3 - 5 p.m. Non-alcoholic cocktails served as part of activities for Alcohol Awareness Week. Everyone welcome. For free tickets, contact the SAC offices at all campuses or Franky Chernin at 867-2646.

**Feb. 21** - Basketball games- George Brown vs. St. Lawrence College, St. James gym. Women play at 6 p.m., men at 8 p.m.

**Feb. 25** - Cabaret evening of song, dance, and short plays presented by the George Brown Theatre School, 530 King St. E., on from today through to March 1. For tickets call 867-2167.

# McKay created new options for some high school graduates

A high school student should never say the words "I can't."

According to Joan McKay, people should see opportunities — rather than limitations — when they finish high school.

It is that vision that led McKay to propose, design and develop the College Vocational Program for high school graduates with most credits at the basic level — work that earned her a Staff Award of Excellence for Educational Achievement in 1991.

It all started when McKay heard a negative comment from a high school student who graduated from a basic-level program.

"He said, 'I got my Grade 12, but I'm really stupid,'" McKay says. "That was heart-wrenching for me. It struck me that there's no way this student should be feeling like that."

Confidence is what "basic-level" high school graduates are often lacking, says McKay. The College Vocational Program was designed to help these students build self-esteem and gain skills so they can bridge the gap between school and work more easily.

College has not been an option for many of these students, she says. As well, many of them also have difficulty getting jobs after high school.

"Many of these students have been stigmatized," she says. "But if they know there's an opportunity to go to college and then get a job like other students, they have an incentive to stay in high school."

A large part of the College Vocational Program is the emphasis on personal growth. Once students feel good about themselves, they are more receptive to learning some techniques to help them find work, she says.

"This particular client group has the most difficult time finding a job, especially in a recession," says McKay. Through the College Vocational Program, they go through vocational assessment, learn life skills and job search skills, and do resume writing, some math and English upgrading, job shadowing, work placement, and computer work.

"The program gives them a year to focus on an achievable career goal, and hopefully their work placement will turn into full-time job placement," she says. "It was designed to give them some career clarification, but the personal growth they experience is every bit as important as the academic



*Award winner Joan McKay is currently on secondment from the College Vocational Program until August 31. She is working as the manager of Access through Training, a program being offered through the Access Division's new department, Training and Employment Services for the Unemployed.*

growth."

McKay has worked at George Brown College since 1979. She started out as a technician in the dental department before being seconded, as part of the College's management development

story.

The student was able to get a driver's licence, an apartment of his own, and, for the first time, a job that included paid holidays.

"I worked with him for months," she says. "He ended up being my hero because of his achievements. His life is now fantastic."

McKay spent about six months working on her proposal for the new program before seeking input from a preliminary advisory committee that included high school staff members and local employers.

"There was no program at the college designed especially to help basic-level high school students make the transition from school to work," she says. "So we were trying to fill a need with the College Vocational Program."

Nomination forms for the 1992 Awards of Excellence will be distributed to all staff in February. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 28.

The Awards will be presented by the Board of Governors to winners at a reception on April 14. For more information about the awards, call Sally Layton at 944-4779.

## Board of Governors Awards of Excellence Winners 1991

program for women, to assist with the development of part-time courses in the Health Sciences Division. She later moved to the Futures program in the Career Development Department, where she worked first as a placement consultant and then as a workshop leader.

Her work in Futures gave McKay her first exposure to basic-level students, many of whom were high school dropouts. The one student who inspired her to create the program has since become her favorite success

# Names in the News



**SPARKIES FLY IN VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP** - The Sparkies, a team mostly made up of teachers from the Electrical Department of the School of Technology, won the annual staff volleyball championship in mid December. They defeated a team from the English as a Second Language Department with a score of 15 to 8 in the final match. The Sparkies' winning combination included (from left) Brian Mitchell, captain Al Peat, Roberta Oullahan (with trophy), Ed Knott, Gary Waters, and Leon Harris. Missing from photo are James Fraser, Ming Quon, and Ed Laroque. Other teams that made it to the semi-finals were Bits and Bytes and Community Services.

George Brown staff will form its own cheering section for the Toronto Blue Jays when they play the Boston Red Sox on June 12. Plumbing Department teacher Lou Tarsitano has bought a block of 500 field-level tickets (section 113) for the 7:35 p.m. game and is selling them to staff on a first-come, first-served basis. This is the third time Tarsitano has made the plunge and bought tickets. Last year he bought 200 seats and was sold out in two days. This year he's selling tickets at their face value of \$17.50. Tarsitano can be reached at 944-4354. Staff who wish to sit with their colleagues should buy their seats together.

It was batter up, and batter out at the recent Kensington pancake breakfast to raise money for the college's United Way campaign. Fashion Department special events co-ordinator Rosalie Starkey reports demand was so high for pancakes that volunteer chefs ran out of batter and had to rush out to a store for more. All this frantic activity helped raise United Way donations by staff to about \$28,000, and almost doubled the number of staff who participated in the campaign from last year.

Dinner at the Meads' may soon become one of the most sought after invitations in the city. Not only is School of Hospitality teacher Bob Mead an award winning chef, but his son Kevin is now following him in the profession. Kevin, a student in George Brown's Culinary Management program, won first prize in the restaurant platter competition at the 1991 cold food Taste of Canada competition. George Brown students took top prizes in 12 out of 17 categories, and came home with two out of three grand prizes. Students from four high schools and four colleges, including Humber, Fanshawe and Durham, as well as 15 apprentices sponsored by

## City College News

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George Brown  The City College

their hotels or restaurants, took part in the contest. Contestants prepared their dishes in their own kitchens and brought them to the Metro Convention Centre for display and judging on Jan. 15 as part of the opening day events of the Metro Toronto Home Show. More than 2,000 people toured the Taste of Canada display. The hot food part of the annual cooking contest will take place at the School of Hospitality on Feb. 3.

According to the *Toronto Star*, good taste is not just inside the School of Hospitality's labs. Architecture critic Christopher Hume recently wrote that the Town of York area around St. James Campus "seems to bring out the best in contemporary architects" and went on to cite the hospitality building as an example.

John Harries has been appointed chair of the Career Development Department in the Access Division. For the last eight years Harries has been Director of Career and Placement Services at York University.

Ron Waldie is the new chairperson of English and Liberal Studies at St. James Campus. He replaces Erma Collins, who returned to faculty in the new year.

The Human Resources Department reports the following staff changes:

New support staff include: Gwen Adams in Community Services at 175 Kendal Ave.; Soussan Khosravaneh in Ontario Basic Skills; French Language Services at St. James; Vaughan McQuade and Margaret Mesarosch in the Registrar's Office at St. James; and Melissa O'Korie in the Registrar's Office at 160 Kendal Ave.

Support staff transfers include: Maureen Clarke, who moves from Client Services at 258 Adelaide St. E. to the Registrar's Office at St. James.

Name changes include Virginia Pollock in Health Sciences, who is now Virginia Warren.

Retiring from the college are: Roman Behersky, John Blair, Andrij Buhel, Lorenzo Mariconda, and Mike Moresco.

Leaving the college are: Randy Kincaide and Nancy Nickle.

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